

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application. Claims 1-29 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 9, 10, 15, 17, 23, 24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 8,11-14, 22, and 29 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 30 and 31 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-7, 9, 10, 15-21, 23-28, 30, and 31 are now presented for examination.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 17, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention.

The Office Action indicates that the rejected claims indicate whether one of the plurality of legs is active, which the independent claims indicate that the second input determines when to produce the signal. The rejected claims have been amended to clarify that the second input is either the first input for the same predriver circuit or the first input for another predriver circuit.

It is submitted that, as amended, claims 3, 17, and 26 claim the subject matter clearly and distinctly.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Mooney, et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 10, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S Patent 6,744,287 of Mooney, et al. (“Mooney I”).

The claims have been amended to remove the rejection. As amended, the rejected claims are only present in combination with the allowable subject matter discussed below or as dependent claims to the allowable claims.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Mooney, et al.

The Examiner rejected claims 24-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S Patent 6,087,847 of Mooney, et al. (“Mooney II”).

The claims have been amended to remove the rejection. As amended, the rejected claims are only present in combination with the allowable subject matter discussed below or as dependent claims to the allowable claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

As indicated before, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the Examiner’s careful search and the finding of allowable subject matter in 8-9, 11, 13-14, 22-23, and 29.

To place the claims in condition for allowance, the following amendments have been made:

-- Independent claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 8. Claim 8 has been cancelled.

-- Independent claim 10 includes the allowable subject matter of claim 11. Claim 10 and the allowable subject matter of claim 13 have been combined to form new independent claim 30. Claim 10 and the allowable subject matter of claim 14 have been combined to form new independent claim 31. Claims 11-14 have been cancelled.

-- Independent claim 15 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 22.

Claim 22 has been cancelled.

-- Independent claim 22 now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 29.

Claim 29 has been cancelled.

The remaining claims are existing claims that are allowable as being dependent on the allowable base claims.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome by the amendment and remark, and that the claims as amended are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims as amended be allowed.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (503) 439-8778 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

The Applicant respectfully petitions for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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